licensing requirements, where applicable. The policy on FDI is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-ministerial consultation process with a view to rationalization/liberalization of the policy.

Overcharging of drugs

2046.SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) detected instances of over-charging and selling without price approval of several hundred categories of drugs by major drug manufacturers and have launched process of recovery from them the overcharged amount and penalty;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of NPPA;

(c) the current status of the process of recovery of over-charged sums and penalty from the guilty manufacturers; and

(d) the steps initiated, if any, by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. NPPA has detected several instances of overcharging and selling without price approval.

(b) to (d) Since the inception of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in August 1997, NPPA has raised a total demand of Rs. 1815.86 crores (up to 30.11.08) for recovery towards overcharged amount, under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955. NPPA has recovered Rs.131.99 crores so far (upto 30.11.08) from defaulting companies. Recoveries amounting to Rs. 1442.57 crores are *sub-judice* in various Courts. The recovery of balance amount of overcharging is in different stages of recovery. NPPA continues to take appropriate action regularly for recovery of the overcharged amount.

Relief packages given by private organizations to the Bhopal tragedy victims

2047.SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several private trusts have been engaged in organizing relief/rehabilitation for citizens suffering from ailments and deformities due to the poisonous gas leak on 3rd December, 1984 at the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details of such private trusts/Voluntary Organizations (VO), duly recognized by Government, who have been engaged in the relief and rehabilitation of Bhopal gas victims indicating the details of financial grants, if any, provided to each of them, year-wise;

(c) whether donations to these trusts/VOs made eligible to exemption under the Income Tax Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Many Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are working for the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy. However, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals neither gives any financial grants nor monitors the activities of such NGOs.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Price rise in controlled and de-controlled drugs

†2048. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) percentage of rise in the prices of drugs which are controlled by Government and those not controlled by Government between the years 1995 and 2005;

(b) when the Drug Policy, 2006 was submitted to the Group of Ministers and the number of its meetings held so far; and

(c) what are the details of Drug Policy, 2006 and the reasons for its non-implementation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The details of percentage of increase in the prices of Bulk Drugs, controlled by the Government since the formation of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in August, 1997, are as follows:

	Since inception of NPPA (upto 8. 12.2008)	
	Nos.	% age
Number of cases of Bulk Drugs where price increased	104	23.42
Number of cases of Bulk Drugs where price decreased	321	72.30
Number of cases of Bulk Drugs where price fixed for the first time	14	3.15
No change in price	5	1.13
TOTAL	444	100

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations, *i.e* the drugs not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

(b) and (c) The Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held four meetings so far on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008. The salient features of the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 are; Strengthening

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.